Appl. No. 10/663115 Attorney Docket No. 3831 P 004 Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2005

Dated: May 9, 2005

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-25 are pending in this Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-20 and 22-24 were allowed; Claim 21 was rejected; and Claim 25 was rejected.

The Examiner objected to Claim 21 because it included a typographical error. By the amendment submitted herein, the typographical error has been corrected.

The Examiner rejected Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. An appropriate clarifying amendment has been introduced to Claim 25 to remove confusion over the movement of the piston when the remotely controlled valve is closed.

The Examiner also rejected Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monaco (US 6279765) in view of Nealis (US 3414134). As amended, Claim 25 requires a remotely controlled valve having a closed position that inhibits buff movement of the piston by blocking fluid flow as well as a plurality of check valves in fluid communication with the piston chamber and the reservoir to allow draft movement of the piston when the remotely controlled valve is in the closed position. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Monaco nor Nealis alone or in combination teaches the arrangement of Claim 25. Therefore, Applicant further submits that Claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that the Application is condition for allowance, and respectfully request timely notice of same. If deficiencies remain, the Examiner may contact the undersigned to facilitate allowance of this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on May 9, 2005

Gerianne M. Flannery

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